

Application No. 10/024,455  
Filed: December 18, 2001  
TC Art Unit: 2877  
Confirmation No.: 6194

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 12 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendrin ('389) in view of Groot ('692). Claims 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13-17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendrin in view of Groot and further in view of Nathel ('969).

The independent claims have been amended to recite the use of low coherence signals. The importance of using low coherence signals is described, for example, at pages 7-12 of the specification. This provides for an accurate measurement using phase interference effects without the ambiguity associated therewith (2 $\pi$ ).

The Nathel reference is cited for referring to the use of a low coherence source. However Nathel fails to disclose or suggest the claimed combinations of wavelengths or signals. For example, there is no teaching in Nathel that two different low coherence signals be used with a third signal to determine an optical distance by counting interference fringes between phase crossing points. Nor is there any teaching regarding the use of a low coherence source that generates a signal that is harmonically related to a signal from a second light source as recited in Claim 12. The Mendrin and de Groot references fail to teach or suggest

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how to use low coherence signals in the claimed combination of steps or features.

New Claims 21-38 have been added.

Concurrently with this Amendment, Applicant is requesting and includes herewith a petition for a three month extension of the term in which to respond to the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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